

For Immediate Release
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Author M.E. Kerr featured speaker at Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon

M.E. Kerr (Marijane Meaker), the 1993 winner of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Margaret A. Edwards Award, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon on Saturday, June 26, at 12:30 p.m., during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans. **The deadline for reservations is May 28.**

Kerr will receive her award, \$1,000 and a citation, at the luncheon. Considered one of the pioneers of realistic fiction for teens, Kerr is being cited for four books; "Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack!" (Harper & Row, Harper Trophy Keypoint Book, 1972); "Me Me Me Me Me: Not a Novel" (Harper & Row, 1983); "Gentlehands" (HarperCollins, Harper Trophy Keypoint Book, 1978), and "Night Kites" (HarperCollins Children's Books, Harper Trophy Keypoint Book, 1986).

The Margaret A. Edwards Award, established in 1988, honors an author's lifetime achievement for writing books that have been popular with teenagers over a period of time.

The annual award is administered by YALSA, a division of the American Library Association, and sponsored by School Library Journal magazine. It recognizes an author's work in helping adolescents become more aware of themselves and addressing questions about their role and importance in relationships, society and in the world.

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The award is named in honor of the late Margaret A. Edwards, an administrator of young adult programs at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Md., for more than 30 years.

Past winners are Richard Peck, S.E. Hinton, Robert Cormier and Lois Duncan.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35 per person and are available by contacting the YALSA Professional Development Office, 800-545-2433, ext. 1393 or 312-280-1393..